

BEFORE THE SOUTH CAROLINA STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION

In the Matter of the Revocation)	
)	
or Suspension of the Educator)	CONSENT ORDER OF
)	
Certificate of Raleigh H. Jackson)	SUSPENSION
)	
Certificate # 124743)	

SUMMARY OF THE CASE

The South Carolina State Board of Education (State Board) considered this matter on September 9, 2003. On October 3, 2002, the State Department of Education (Department) sent a notice of the possible suspension or revocation of his South Carolina educator certificate number 124743 (certificate) to Mr. Raleigh H. Jackson by certified mail, return receipt requested, delivery restricted to addressee. Mr. Jackson received the notice as evidenced by the attached postal receipt. Mr. Jackson initially requested a hearing, but subsequently agreed through his attorney, Thomas J. Leclair, Esquire, to resolve this matter without a hearing by agreeing to the following terms: (1) his certificate will be suspended from June 1, 2003, through October 1, 2003 (2) the suspension will be reported to all school districts in South Carolina and to the NASDTEC Clearinghouse as suspension with the statutory grounds listed as "unprofessional conduct", and (3) Mr. Jackson will successfully complete a course or program in anger management approved by the Department by January 1, 2004. After receiving the settlement recommendation and reviewing the evidence provided, the State Board voted to accept the recommendation of the parties to suspend Mr. Jackson's certificate for four months.

Mr. Jackson holds a valid South Carolina certificate, and has over twenty-one years of teaching experience. He was under contract for the 2002-2003 school year in Clarendon School District One (District), as a teacher and coach at Scott's Branch High School. Scott's Branch students filed three incident reports with the Clarendon County Sheriff's Office over a three-year period alleging physical abuse by Mr. Jackson. No criminal charges were filed and the complaints were withdrawn.

Mr. Jackson was placed on administrative leave on August 29, 2002, pending an investigation into allegations of verbal and physical abuse by students and staff at Scott's Branch. He was later reinstated in a probationary status and warned against further incidents of verbal or physical abuse. On April 10, 2003, Mr. Jackson was notified that his teaching contract would not be renewed for the 2003-2004 school year. He is currently teaching in Allendale

County. While he denies that he intentionally sought to verbally or physically abuse anyone, he admits that he may have been overzealous in his efforts to instill discipline in his students and in the athletes he coached. He is, therefore, willing to accept the terms of suspension outlined above.

CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

“The South Carolina Board of Education may, for just cause, either revoke or suspend the certificate of any person.” S.C. Code Ann. § 59-25-150 (1990). Just cause includes: “Unprofessional conduct.” S.C. Code Ann. § 59-25-160 (1990); 24 S.C. Code Ann. Regs. 43-58 (1992). After considering the findings and conclusions of the hearing officer, the State Board finds there is substantial evidence to support the suspension of Mr. Jackson’s certificate for four months from June 1, 2003, through October 1, 2003.

South Carolina State Board of Education

By: /S/ Greg Killian

Greg Killian

Chair

Columbia, South Carolina
September 9, 2003